

## Message Text

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13-11

ACTION A-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 USSS-00 SS-15 CPR-01

SY-05 NSC-05 OPR-02 /037 W

----- 018866

O 251030Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO THE WHITE HOUSE WASHDC

USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9769

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 16573

E. O. 11653: GDS

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT

FOR: USLO PEKING - ROSENBERGER, WH ADVANCE FROM: PASS WATERS

WHITE HOUSE - ANN GRIER, WH ADVANCE FROM: PASS WATERS

REF: WH 52258

FOLLOWING IS INFO REQUESTED IN REFTEL

### MANILA BAY

MANILA BAY, FAMED FOR ITS GLORIOUS SUNSETS, IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S FINEST NATURAL HARBORS. THE BAY IS ABOUT 25 MILES WIDE AND 30 MILES LONG, WITH A CIRCUMFERENCE OF 136 MILES. THE ISLANDS OF CORREGIDOR AND CABALLO GUARD THE MOUTH, NINE MILES WIDE. THE SPANISH FIRST APPROACHED MANILA FROM THE BAY IN 1570 FROM THEIR FIVE-YEAR-OLD SETTLEMENTS IN THE VISAYAS NEAR CEBU. THE BAY ACHIEVED WORLD FAME IN 1898 WHEN ADMIRAL GEORGE DEWEY'S FLEET DEFEATED THE SPANISH ARMADA THERE DURING THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR.

### RIZAL MONUMENT

DR. JOSE P. RIZAL, A YOUNG NATIONALIST WHOSE WRITINGS ARE

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CREDITED WITH STIRRING THE FLAME OF FREEDOM IN THE

PHILIPPINES, WAS EXECUTED BY A SPANISH FIRING SQUAD ON DECEMBER 30, 1896. HE WAS 35 YEARS OLD. THE RIZAL MONUMENT STANDS OVER HIS REMAINS NEAR THE SPOT WHERE HE DIED. THE AMERICAN FLAG WAS TAKEN DOWN FOR THE LAST TIME FROM THE FLAG-POLE AT THE RIZAL MONUMENT WHEN THE PHILIPPINES BECAME INDEPENDENT ON JULY 4, 1946. AN HONOR GUARD MAINTAINS A 24-HOUR VIGIL OVER THE NATIONAL SHRINE. THE SURROUNDING PARK, FIRST KNOWN AS THE LUNETTA, WAS BUILT ON LAND RECLAIMED FROM MANILA BAY. NOW KNOWN AS RIZAL PARK, IT IS ONE OF MANILA'S MOST POPULAR PUBLIC ATTRACTIONS.

#### CORREGIDOR

AT THE MOUTH OF MANILA BAY, 26 MILES WEST OF THE CITY, STANDS THE ROCK ISLAND OF CORREGIDOR. THE ISLAND IS FOUR MILES LONG AND A HALF-MILE WIDE AT THE WIDEST POINT. CORREGIDOR HOUSED A SPANISH DOCKYARD AND A HOSPITAL FROM 1795 AND WAS USED AS A MILITARY STAGING POINT AS EARLY AS 1574. IN 1902, U.S. FORCES CONVERTED THE ISLAND TO A FORTRESS DESIGNED TO WARD OFF ATTACKS FROM THE SOUTH CHINA SEA. THEY LATER CONSTRUCTED THE "MALINTA" TUNNEL, OVER 900 FEET LONG AND 25 FEET WIDE, WITH THREE SECTIONS AND 25 MAIN LATERALS, TO HOUSE MILITARY STORES. WHEN MANILA FELL TO THE JAPANESE, PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT MANUEL L. QUEZON, U.S. HIGH COMMISSIONER FRANCIS B. SAYRE AND GENERAL DOUGLAS MACARTHUR TRANSFERRED THEIR HEADQUARTERS TO "THE ROCK." FOR 27 DAYS AFTER THE FALL OF BATAAN, CORREGIDOR HELD OUT, FINALLY SURRENDERING ON MAY 6, 1942. A MONUMENT ON THE ISLAND'S HIGHEST LEVEL HONORS THE 12,000 AMERICAN AND FILIPINO DEFENDERS WHO SURRENDERED AFTER THE BITTER SIEGE, IN THE WORDS OF GENERAL JONATHAN WAINWRIGHT, "WITH BROKEN HEART AND HEAD BOWED IN SADNESS BUT NOT IN SHAME....."

#### MALACANANG PALACE

MALACANANG PALACE ORIGINALLY THE SUMMER ESTATE OF A SPANISH ARISTOCRAT, DON LUIS ROCHE, BECAME THE OFFICIAL RESIDENCE OF THE SPANISH GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF THE PHILIPPINES IN 1863, WHEN THE FORMER PALACE NEAR THE MANILA CATHEDRAL WAS DESTROYED  
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BY EARTHQUAKE. AMERICAN GOVERNOR GENERAL LATER HAD RESIDENCE THERE, AND ADDED THE EXECUTIVE BUILDING IN 1920. IN 1935, WHEN THE PHILIPPINE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT WAS ESTABLISHED, PRESIDENT MANUEL L. QUEZON MADE MALACANANG HIS RESIDENCE AND IT HAS REMAINED THE OFFICIAL RESIDENCE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES SINCE. THE NAME MALACANANG IS SAID TO HAVE DERIVED FROM TAGALOG WORDS MEANING "NOBLES LIVE IN THAT PLACE."

SULLIVAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, BRIEFING MATERIALS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 NOV 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975MANILA16573  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** DG ALTERED  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Line Count:** 116  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION A  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <09 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <10 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESIDENTIAL VISIT FOR: USLO PEKING - ROSENBERGER, WH ADVANCE FROM: PASS WATERS  
**TAGS:** OVIP, PFOR, US, RP, (FORD, GERALD R)  
**To:** WHITE HOUSE STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006